

On a personal note, I have been truly blessed by Randy's steadfast friendship and support. I was delighted when, several years ago, his good friend Colonel Curtis Wright, USAF (Retired) introduced us. My wife, Vivian, and I will cherish the wonderful memories we have of Randy's bright smile, upbeat personality, and close friendship.

Randy is survived by his two sons, Walter Andre and Marshall; three sisters, a niece, three nephews, and other beloved relatives and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me and my wife, Vivian, in saluting Lt. Col. Walter "Randy" Randall, USAF (Retired) for his outstanding service to his country and to his community. We extend our deepest sympathies to Randy's family, friends and loved ones during this difficult time and we pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

REMEMBERING DEMI BRAE CUCCIA

HON. KEITH J. ROTHFUS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2014

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Demi Brae Cuccia. Demi was a student and cheerleader at Gateway High School in Monroeville, PA with an outgoing personality and big aspirations for a successful future.

Tragically, Demi was a victim of teen-dating violence, murdered just one day after her sixteenth birthday on August 15, 2007.

Teen-dating violence such as physical, emotional, or sexual abuse and stalking is unacceptable. No child deserves to be subjected to abuse and violence. As a father of six, my heart goes out to the family and friends of Demi, especially her parents, Dr. Gary and Jodi Cuccia.

More must be done in our communities to prevent future tragedies like the one that took Demi. The Cuccia family is working hard to educate Western Pennsylvania students and families about how to recognize and prevent teen-dating violence through the Demi Brae Cuccia Awareness Organization. Because of the Cuccias efforts, Demi's story has also been recognized by national news outlets and in the documentary Teen Dating Violence: The Murder of Demi Cuccia.

It is my hope that thanks to the Cuccias efforts more families can be spared from the tragedy of teen-dating violence.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Demi today and in thanking the Cuccias for their commitment to end teen-dating violence.

TRIBUTE TO CYNTHIA K. RAFFETY

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2014

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cynthia K. Raffety, who on June 13, 2014 will step down from an exceptional ca-

reer as a public school mathematics teacher, a profession in which she has been engaged over the past four decades.

Born in Baltimore, MD on February 23, 1948, Cynthia is the daughter of Samuel and Ellen Kirby, an engraver and a nurse, respectively. She graduated from Eastern High School in 1966 and attended the University of Maryland, where she earned a BA in Education—Mathematics. In 1991, Cynthia obtained her Masters of Education from West Virginia Wesleyan College (WVWC).

Upon graduation from the University of Maryland, Cynthia served as a public school teacher in Prince George's Co., MD, and Gloucester Co., NJ. After a stint as a stay-at-home mom in the mid-70s to raise her two children, Jennifer and Robert, Cynthia returned to teaching in Fairfax Co., VA in 1980, and has been active in the classroom ever since.

Cynthia's most notable contributions as an educator took place in the Upshur County (WV) Public School System. From 1983 to 1990, Cynthia taught 8th Grade Math at the Buckhannon-Upshur Middle School as a member of Team H. She then transitioned to the Buckhannon-Upshur High School, where from 1990 onward Cynthia instructed a wide range of math courses, including: Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, and Dual Credit College Algebra and College Trigonometry. Along the way, in 1991, Cynthia picked up her Masters of Education from West Virginia Wesleyan College (WVWC).

Outside of her duties as a public school teacher, Cynthia also serves as an Adjunct Professor of Mathematics Education at WVWC and Fairmont State University. She also served as Program Director for WVWC's Summer Institute, as well as lead instructor of SAT Math Prep. Cynthia routinely opens her high school classroom to undergraduate and graduate student teachers, as well as students engaged in clinical education research in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education.

In addition to her excellence as a math educator, Cynthia also graciously volunteers her time as the faculty advisor to several school organizations, including the alcohol, smoking, and drug-awareness activities of Teen Institute/RAZEWV, and the civic and volunteer undertakings of Interact (Youth Rotary).

In all of her cherished duties—wife, mother, teacher, mentor, advisor, role-model, and civic leader—Cynthia has displayed unparalleled spirit, drive, and devotion. I am, therefore, honored and pleased to have this opportunity to call to the attention of my colleagues the extraordinary accomplishments of Cynthia K. Raffety. I admire Cynthia's idealism and lifelong commitment to her community, and I join her family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues in thanking Cynthia for her life of service.

SUCCESS AND OPPORTUNITY THROUGH QUALITY CHARTER SCHOOLS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 10) to amend the Charter School Program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Chair, on Tuesday, my amazing wife Rachel gave birth to our seventh child, a fifth daughter to add to our brood. And whether it is our seventh or seventeenth baby, the first few days always feel the same. The curiosity of who this little girl will become is just as high with her as it was when our oldest was born.

We wonder, will she have an affinity for math or be drawn to the classics? Will she excel in music or languages? Will she have an interest in history or world affairs? With all of our children, we know only time can answer these questions, but her schooling will certainly play a part.

It is a sentiment shared by millions of parents. That is why I rise in strong support of H.R. 10, the Success and Opportunity through Quality Charter Schools Act. I am a proud cosponsor of this legislation, and am happy to see it on the floor, especially today.

My congressional district has the 25th highest number of charter schools in the country. All parents want choices and opportunities for our children and charter schools provide those options. Schools no longer have to be dictated by where families buy their house, and a zip code should no longer dictate the quality of education our children receive. These things should be chosen based on the education parents want their children to receive.

Demand for charter schools has never been higher. Currently, over 1 million student names are on waiting lists for a public charter school. From New York City to rural Wisconsin, these schools play an integral role in educating our children. As our new baby girl grows up, we will value the choices she is given because of the Success and Opportunity through Quality Charter Schools Act.

I'm thankful for the committee's work on this important bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2014

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on May 6, 2014, I missed rollcall vote 194 and 195. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall 194 and "yes" on rollcall 195.

HONORING THE 66TH ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2014

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Yom Ha'Atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day.

Sixty-six years ago, the state of Israel celebrated its first independence day. The creation of a modern Jewish homeland is no small achievement, and I am honored to join with Israelis and millions of other people around the world to continue this celebration.